ARUNACHALAM): (a) Exact figures of the imported raw material utilised by the paper industry during the years 1984 and 1985 are not available. However,the consumption of imported wood pulp/waste paper by the industry is estimated at 15—20 per cent of the total requirement of raw material.

(b) The installed capacity, production and capacity utilisation of the industry during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Installed capacity	Production	Capacity utilisation
1983	19·15	11·78	61·5%
1984	21·65	13·71	63·3%
1985	23·50	15·00 (estimated)	63·4%

(c) The industry utilises various types of raw material for manufacture of paper and paper board such as wood, agricultural residues, waste paper, etc. The extent of demand for raw material would therefore depend on the type of raw material used. In order to augment the availability of raw material for the industry, import of pulp, waste paper and woodchips is permitted under OGL free of customs levies. Excise concessions have been extended for manufacture of paper and paper board based on bagasse and other unconventional raw materials. The Industry is also being encouraged to take up captive plantations.

Extending provisions of MRTP Act to Public Sector Companies

641. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain consumer organisations in the country have urged the Central Government to extend the provisions of the MRTP Act to the Public Sector Companies also and that whether at a Seminar on 'unfair trade practices and consumer protection' held in Delhi in December, 1985, a similar demand was made;

(b) if so, whether in view of the fact that MRTP Act is a watchdog of consumer interests, Government propose to extend its provisions to public sector undertakings and to the Co-operative organisations which are no less prone to indulging in unfair trade practices; and

(c) if so, what is the decision taken in this regard and if the answer is in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir. However, in a Seminar on Consumer Protection held in Delhi on 20th and 21st January, 1986, which was also attended by certain Consumer Organisations, a suggestion had been made for bringing the Public Sector Undertakings within the purview of MRTP Act, 1969.

(b) and (c) Although various suggestions for protecting the interests of the Consumer are presently under consideration of the Government, no final decision has been taken in this behalf.

Non-Existent Biogas Plants

642. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of biogas plants set up under the aegis of the KVIC so far actually do not exist and scarce commodities like cement and steel have been distributed by the KVIC to the non-existent biogas plants;